

THE ONYX INFORMER

THE NEW BLACK STUDENT VIEW AT NU

Next Issue:

Take Five With Steve Richard
O.I. Looks at the Institute under
Norman
Student Profiles
And More!

Dr. John Norman takes over at Institute

By Lisa L. Chapman

The following article is a continuation of an Onyx-Informer series about services and programs for black students at Northeastern University. The first story traced the history of the African American Institute. The second story focused on the transitional phase of the Institute and the search for a new director. This story will introduce you to the new director — Dr. John C. Norman.

Dr. Norman has been director of the African American Institute for a short time, yet is very confident about its potential and ability to succeed.

Norman comes to Northeastern from the University of Connecticut where he held various administrative positions including: Director of Minority Academic Programs, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of the Department of Special Academic Enrichment Programs.

According to John D. O'Bryant, Vice President of Student Affairs, Norman was chosen from eight candidates because he had the most experience and academic credentials. "He seemed to have a good grasp of what was needed here based on his experience at the University of Connecticut," O'Bryant said.

Norman said that recruitment, support and retention of black students will be a major goal of the Institute under his direction. He

wants to involve others at the university in "the formulation of a plan for black persistence to graduation and beyond."

To achieve this goal, Norman believes the Institute must "interface programmatically" with the larger university community. "The Institute cannot be everything to black students," he said.

However, he acknowledged that the Institute is, and will continue to be an important part of the black experience at Northeastern.

"The mission of the Institute is to facilitate black development and serve as a link for black needs in concert with other university units," he said.

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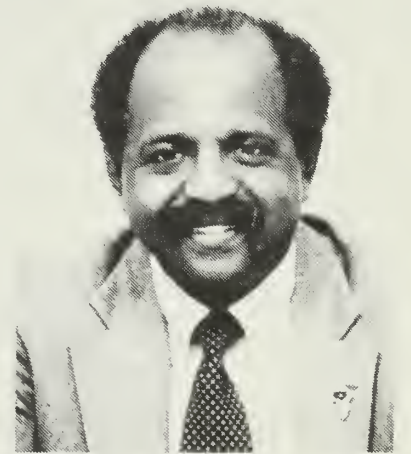
Welcome to Northeastern From: Vice President of Student Affairs John D. O'Bryant

On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs I would like to extend a warm welcome to all incoming freshmen.

Attending a major, urban university will be a totally new experience for many of you. It is my hope that this new experience will not only be productive but enjoyable as well.

You and you alone are in control of whether or not your stay here at Northeastern will be productive. In order to be successful you must first have confidence in your ability to succeed. In addition, you must not only have a clear view of what your educational mission is for the next five years, but you must make a commitment to study and work hard in order to fulfill that mission.

There will, from time to time, be temptations to deviate from the educational mission before you, whether it is an invitation to a party when you should be studying or



something similar. However, you must try not to yield to temptation!

Although all of us who work at Northeastern have the responsibility of making your stay a worthwhile, rewarding experience, the staff of the Division of Student Affairs has a special role to play. We stand ready to serve you in whatever may be necessary to ensure your success at Northeastern University.

DISCIPLINE

*I've been in Boston a full four years now
 Searching, seemingly forever searching
How I relax, lay back
and ponder on what I've found
I've found an abundancy of college students
 you name 'em Boston's got 'em
Blacks, Whites, Oriental, Spanish, Indian
and even native Mongolian
Yes, this is college town U.S.A.
Boston College, Boston University, Simmons,
Harvard, M.I.T. and many more
I expected to encounter an enriching
 Self-fulfilling environment promoting academic achievement
I imagine you will too
... don't be disappointed.
you may find getting high
 much more common than studying
and making parties
 much more important than attending class
and for you formal introduction to Boston
 Racism taps your shoulder
 as pessimism tugs your coat*

*you seek support for achievement
but greet stagnation all around you
you expect studying to get you over
 but you find that politics is the key'
without receiving your just reward
you find yourself falling behind
... not really caring
your rationale and justification
"Ah, grades aren't really important
 all I really need is the degree"
however, five years later you apply to grad school
you encounter much difficulty in getting in,
 matter of fact
no one will accept you.
not even in this day
 of anti-Bakkeism and Affirmative-Action
with your goals shattered
 you become humble and defeated
your ambition takes the trolley
melancholy becomes your constant companion
stagnation wraps his arm around your shoulder
 your justification "a racist system"
but whatever your justification
 your solution is more than obvious
don't expect the same reward
 as your white counterpart
but increase your effort twicfold
and lock discouragement in the closet,
deal with the racism
 and shove the passimism behind you
and maybe, just maybe
you'll graduate five years from now with
 a future.*

Black Students Guide to Boston

Dear New Student,

Welcome to Northeastern University. We hope you enjoy college life. To make your transition from High School or another university to Boston a little easier, we have provided you with a guide to help you explore and get acquainted with the city. In addition this guide will hopefully answer some basic questions like, "Where can I get my hair done?" or "Where is the nearest grocery store?" or "Where do I go if I have a problem?"

Your first few weeks undoubtedly will be campus based — selecting courses and professors, buying books and making financial adjustments. As you get adjusted to campus life, however, your sites may turn to the surrounding community. Since Northeastern is located in the Roxbury section of Boston (the black community), it is wise that you familiarize yourself with some of the community facilities.

We must stress that the items listed in this guide are not intended as endorsements by the African-American Institute, the University or the Onyx-Informer Staff, nor do they represent a comprehensive resource list. Rather, they are places of interest and importance suggested by black upperclassmen at Northeastern.

We hope this guide will facilitate your mastery of off-campus Boston. But do remember; academic excellence is our main priority, entertainment is the latter.

Barber Shops/Beauty Salons

Another Dimension in Hair
Symphony Plaza West
333 Mass. Ave., Boston
Phone: 247-2211

Danny's His & Hers Beauty Salon
229 Mass. Ave., Boston
Phone: 266-6022

Esquire East Mens Salon
1029 Tremont St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-9319

Toggies
979 Tremont St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-8712

Talk of the Town
979 Tremont St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-8763

Olive's
755 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 247-3333

Stacy's Coiffeur & Boutique
1070 Tremont St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-8784

Clothing/Wearing Apparel

Designer's Workshop
56A Gainsboro St., Boston
Phone: 536-1865

Tello's Specialty Shop
415 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 536-1565

The Limited
160 Faneuil Hall Market Place, Boston
Phone: 742-6837

Ann Taylors
427 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 262-0763

Hit or Miss
376 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 542-1905

Louis*
470 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 965-6100

The Casual Male*
407 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 247-8652

Willie D's Designer Apparel
405 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 437-1181

Filene's**
Downtown Boston
Phone: 482-4250

Jordan Marsh**
Downtown Boston
Phone: 357-3000

Lord & Taylor**
760 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 262-8500

Saks Fifth Avenue**
Prudential Center
Phone: 262-8500

* Men's apparel only
** Men's and women's apparel

Eating Out/Restaurants

Bob the Chef's (The House of Soul Food)
604 Columbus Ave., Roxbury
Phone: 536-6204

Anthony's Pier 4 Restaurant
Northern Ave. (On the Waterfront), Boston
Phone: 423-6363

Aku-Aku Restaurant
390 Commonwealth Ave., Boston
Phone: 536-0420

No-Name Restaurant
15½ Fish Pier, Boston
Phone: 338-7539

Legal Sea Food
Park Plaza Hotel, Park Square, Boston
Phone: 426-4444

Pizzeria Uno
731 Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 267-8554

Fridays
26 Exeter St., Boston
Phone: 266-9040

Newbury's Steak House
94 Mass. Ave., Boston
Phone: 536-0184

Hyatt Regency Hotel
575 Memorial Drive, The Spinnaker,
Cambridge
Phone: 429-1234

*Remember, Massachusetts 20-year-old drinking age requirement!

Churches

Charles Street A.M.E. Church
551 Warren St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-6175

Union United Methodist Church
485 Columbus Ave., Boston
Phone: 536-0872

St. Paul's A.M.E. Charles
37 Austin St., Roxbury
Phone: 661-1110

Twelfth Baptist Church
160 Warren St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-8854

People's Baptist Church
134 Camden St., Boston
Phone: 427-0424

Churches

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church
230 Warren St., Roxbury
Phone: 442-3730

Muhammadiyah's Temple of Islam and Mosque
35 Intervale St., Roxbury
Phone: 445-8070

Islamic Studies
Shelbourne Center (Wed. Night Only)
2730 Washington St., Roxbury
Phone: 442-3099

Cultural Affairs/Museums/Historic Sites

Museum of Afro-American History Gallery
Box-5 Dudley St., Roxbury
Phone: 445-7400

Black Heritage Trail
Box-5 Dudley St., Roxbury
Phone: 445-7400

Elma Lewis School of the Fine Arts
122 Elm Hill Ave., Roxbury
Phone: 442-8820

Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont St., Boston
Phone: 426-5000

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston
Phone: 267-9300

Museum of Science and
Hayden Planetarium
Science Park, Boston
Phone: 723-2500

New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston
Phone: 742-8876

Franklin Park Zoo
Franklin Park, Dorchester
Phone: 442-9091

Children's Museum
Route 1, Jamaicaaway, Boston
Phone: 426-8855

A.A.M.A.R.P.
Visual & Performing Arts Complex
11 Leon St., Boston
Northeastern University
Phone: 437-3139

*All sites open daily. Call for tour and
daily time schedules.

Community Service Programs

Lena Park Community Development
Corporation
150 American Legion Highway, Dorchester
Phone: 436-1900

Roxbury Defender's Committee, Inc.
124-126 Warren St., Roxbury
Phone: 445-5640

Roxbury Multi-Service Center
434 Warren St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-4470

Roxbury Y.M.C.A.
285 Martin Luther King Blvd., Roxbury
Phone: 427-5300

Roxbury Boy's and Girl's Club
115 Warren St., Roxbury
Phone: 427-6050

N.U. Community Development
334 Mass. Ave., Boston
Phone: 437-3382

Black Students Guide To Boston

Groceries

Stop & Shop
Church Park, Boston
Phone: 267-9044

Star Market
Prudential Center, Boston
Phone: 262-5551

Haymarket Square and Quincy Market
Government Center, Behind City Hall,
Boston

Crisis Intervention:

Boston Police Department
154 Berkley St., Boston
Phone: 247-4200
Emergency: 911

Project Place*
32 Rutland St., Boston
Phone: 267-9150

*Handles all crisis for people who need
emergency help.

Reading Pleasure

The Bay State Banner
25 Ruggles St., Roxbury
Phone: 442-4900

The Progressive Platter
25 Huntington Ave., Boston
Phone: 267-4255

The Boston Globe
Phone: 929-2000

Record Shops

Strawberries Inc.
709 Boylston Ave., Boston
Phone: 266-1441

Skippy White's
Washington St., (North Hampton Station),
South End

Popcorn Records
Boylston St., Boston
Phone: 262-3945

WRBB 91.7 FM
360 Huntington Ave., Boston
Phone: 437-2658

WCAS 74 AM
380 Green St., Cambridge
Phone: 492-7821

WERS 89 FM
130 Beacon St., Boston
Phone: 267-7821

WILD 109 AM
390 Commonwealth Ave., Boston
Phone: 267-1900

Sports & Athletic Facilities

Shelborne Recreation Center (Washington
Park)
2730 Washington St., Roxbury
Phone: 442-9864
Includes men's and women's basketball
leagues.

The Cooper Community Center
Washington Street

Franklin Field & Tennis Center
930 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester
Phone: 288-9092/1156

Boston Garden
150 Causeway St., (North Station), Boston
Event Information Phone: 277-3200



Discipline is the key!

By Anthony D. Robinson, Jr.

As I began to write this welcome (warning) I can only think, "Damn! Where was Michael Riddles when I needed him as a freshman in 1980!" When I searched through old issues of the Onyx for a starting point for this introduction to Northeastern University for the incoming freshmen class, I just happened to come accross Mike's poem, "Discipline" from the 1979 Onyx Freshmen Magazine.

After reading the poem, I immediately felt relieved that after four years at NU I have the same thoughts and feelings about this place as a man who passed this way five years prior to me. But then another more frightening thought hit me, a voice deep in the back of my mind boomed:

"Hey stupid, what are you feeling so good for. All this means is that from the time Mike arrived to the time you leave, in a total of ten long years, nothing much will have changed. Oh sure, the faces are different and the names have changed, but in the final analysis many black students still come to Northeastern only to get sucked into her hellified hole of apathy and listlessness. Then after five hard years of struggling just to get by, they realize that they have wasted a

great deal of time and money, and wonder if the whole experience was worth it from the get go."

Well, there it is, Northeastern in a nutshell. Hey, I might as well yell you the real deal from jump street or wherever you are from, the underlying theme at Northeastern is this: NO DEPOSIT, NO RETURN. You get out of this school exactly what you put into it...except your money, they keep all of that and then some.

But if you follow the "plan" the way it is designed, then supposedly

one day you will recoup all that you paid out to NU and much more. The key to your success, mediocrity, or outright failure is the way you apply yourself to the things you have to do at Northeastern to graduate with respectable grades and a promising future.

However, the plan does not always work. There is a *75 percent attrition rate at Northeastern. Which is to say that for every ten black freshmen only three will graduate. The pitfalls are many and

continued

Black Student Organizations

Northeastern University has a variety of organizations of interest to black students. You will have the chance to meet many different people because most of the organizations have members from other schools in the area. Becoming involved in one or more of these organizations will enrich your college experience.

Fraternities

Alpha Phi Alpha
Kappa Alpha Psi
Omega Psi Phi
Phi Beta Sigma
Iota Phi Theta

Sororities

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Delta Sigma Theta
Zeta Phi Beta
Sigma Gamma Rho
Sigma Beta Epsilon

Social Fellowships

Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship
The Apples

Cultural

Nia - African American Institute
Arts and Literary Guild
National Black Student Association (NBSA)
Council for Alternative Programs (CAP)

Professional

Future Black Lawyers Society (FBLS)
Northeastern University Black Business Student Society (NUBBSS)
The Onyx-Informer (the black student newspaper)
WRBB-Radio 104.9 FM (NU student run station. Progressive R&B format.)

from p. 1

He said that current programs and services will be evaluated and significant changes will be made only if those programs are found to be ineffective.

Norman believes the Institute will succeed despite the negative attitudes of some. He said the commitment from the university to see it succeed is tangible and not just symbolic. According to Norman, there is a strong commitment from the highest levels in the university including University President Kenneth G. Ryder, Executive Vice

President John A. Curry, and O'Bryant. "The Institute will achieve despite deterrents to achievement," he said.

Norman believes that student participation is vital to the Institute. He would like to form a student advisory committee to keep abreast of black student opinions and needs.

He said the Institute must involve itself in the development of solid academic services, self concepts and positive mental attitudes for black students. "A positive mental attitude brings you outside of yourself and helps you to achieve within an imperfect environment."

Welcome to Northeastern From:

Assistant Dean/Director of Minority Student Affairs

Keith Motley

On behalf of the Office of Minority Student Affairs, I would like to welcome you, the Class of 1989, to the challenging world of higher education. You are about to begin an experience here at Northeastern University that I hope will have a very positive influence on the rest of your life.

The door of opportunity has been opened for you and the chance to obtain higher education is in your grasp, however, the pathway to your goal of obtaining a degree will sometimes be without lights or direction signs. We in the Office of Minority Student Affairs are committed to clearly affording you the opportunity to not only pursue higher education but, to be successful in the pursuit.

During your freshman year we will constantly monitor your academic progress. Because higher education is a new experience for you, there may be some problems that occur with your academics that you never had to encounter before. We are available to help you with not only your academic performance but, with the registration process, course selections, changing your program, social, vocational, and physical aspects of your coping with many of the challenges that you may encounter.

Because of the tendency in higher education toward emphasizing cultural conformity that can prove especially crippling for minorities and that can also create an atmosphere that will make "success" for you improbable, be sure to maintain your identity.

Generally, your culture and even your existence has not been adequately reflected in the educational goals and objectives of major institutions. Fortunately the Office of Minority Student Affairs serves as a mediating apparatus by which communication between the University and its minority students



can be established and further, it serves as an antidote to any suggestion or movement that would prevail upon you to abandon your racial identity, cultural tradition and language patterns as a condition for partial acceptance by the larger academic community.

However do not isolate yourself or be indifferent to the challenges of the campus as a whole. Become involved, to the extent possible, as a partner with this institution by participating in the legitimate and representative organizations on campus.

Discipline from Page 3

the rewards are few. There are all sorts of diversions and obstacles to keep you from reaching your goals. But as Mike's poem so subtly points out, the key to success is discipline.

From the way you schedule your time to how you study, remember, discipline determines whether or not you progress or fail. I don't intend to preach to you the very same things that your mother told you just before you left to come to Northeastern. You will learn, as I did in 1980, that experience is the best teacher.

And with that, the best introduction any freshman can receive isn't really one at all, it's a

warning. And a plea...if you find yourself slipping (academically, emotionally, or socially) please don't be afraid to reach out for help from a peer or an upperclassman or any of the support services that are available to you. If you don't reach there won't be anyone there to hold onto and you will sink. You have been duly warned.

Do not be discouraged, Northeastern is not all bad, but the negatives of college live as well as the positives will make themselves known in time. Just remember discipline is the key to your success.

** Statistic from report of The Task Force on Black Student Attrition*